

STATE BOARD OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH

Minutes of January 8, 2008

Utah Department of Human Services

Salt Lake City, Utah

Attended:

Board Members:

Dr. Michael Crookston, Chair
Paula Bell, Vice-Chair
Dr. James Ashworth
Joleen Meredith

Nora B Stephens
Lou Callister
Darryl Wagner

Staff:

Mark Payne
Ron Stromberg
Dallas Earnshaw
Brent Kelsey

Kristen Reisig
Thom Dunford
Becky Barnett
Jan Fryer

Guests:

Angela Smart
Don Muller
Georganne Arrington
Sherrie Wittwer
Jan Ferre
Steve Jardine

AGENDA	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ACTION
Welcome and Introductions	Paula Bell opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance. Mark introduced Becky Barnett to the Board who has been hired at the Division as Program Manager for substance abuse treatment and replaces Albert Nieto. Mark reported that Dave Felt has been hired as the Program Administrator over substance abuse treatment, replacing Victoria Delheimer; however, was unable to attend today's meeting. Mark indicated that the Division is fortunate to have Becky and Dave on Board and welcomed both to the Division.	
Approval of November 6, 2007 Meeting Minutes		Lou moved that the November 6 th , 2007 meeting minutes be approved as written. Motion seconded by Nora B and approved unanimously.
Utah Behavioral Healthcare Network (UBHN)	Angela Smart reported that she has submitted her resignation from UBHN and the Association of Counties (UAC) effective February 28 th and has accepted a position with Valley Mental Health. Recruitment will begin over the next couple of weeks for a new executive director and a support staff person. UBHN held a fall retreat with UAC in November and the UBHN budget was approved for calendar year 2008. Behavioral health directors have indicated that they will continue to work through the merger issues, and meetings have been scheduled with UAC over the next few months. The meetings will include a facilitator to help address some of the unresolved issues with the merger. Angela reported that UBHN is currently working with the Division regarding DORA and will be meeting with the DORA Steering Committee to provide additional information and to assure that the Legislature has an accurate picture of DORA. She indicated that they are also working with the Division and others on legislative coordination for the upcoming session. San Juan Counseling has hired Steve Jensen Services as their new Director; Kevin Eastman has been announced as the new Director at Weber Human Services and will assume these responsibilities when Harold Morrill, current Director, retires in June; Kyle Snow remains Acting Director at Northeastern Counseling.	The Board expressed their appreciation to Angela for her efforts during the difficult transition time and wished her luck in her new position.
Utah State Hospital	Dallas Earnshaw reported that the State Hospital has submitted a long-term recruiting and retention plan to the Department. He indicated that concerns and challenges continue with nurses covering multiple units and working long hours. Data is being compiled to show what the status at the Hospital has been over the past few years, and trends will be tracked on an ongoing basis to see how the shortages impact incidences and patient care at the State Hospital. Dallas noted that this is also a concern because the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services review staffing issues when they conduct their surveys at the	

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Utah State Hospital (continued)	State Hospital. Surveys from both organizations are overdue and the Hospital expects them to visit unannounced at any time. The Forgotten Patient Christmas Project was very successful with a lot of community support and all patients had a good Christmas. A pre-exit meeting with the legislative auditors will be held at the State Hospital on January 11 th . The audit team will have a preliminary report ready, and responses and modifications to the report will then be considered. The audit report will then be finalized and published in the next couple of weeks. The Hospital has been tobacco-free since November 15 th . Patients and staff have accepted it well and no major incidences have occurred.	
System of Care Grant	Dr. Crookston arrived at the meeting and assumed his role as chair for the remainder of the meeting. Kristin Reisig, Division's Program Administrator for Children, Youth and Families distributed and reviewed two documents regarding the Family Resource Facilitator (FRF) Project and the System of Care Grant. She reported that the Division and the Children's Center partnered together for the FRF Project which provides for a family resource facilitator in each of the 13 mental health centers that will work together to assure family involvement and a family voice that drives treatment. Kristen described in further detail the purpose of the Project and the facilitators' primary job components. Kristen reported that as a result of this project, the Children's Center approached the Division about applying for the System of Care Grant through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). This is a \$9 million grant over the course of six years, with a target population of birth to eight years old. Children specifically targeted for this grant include, 1) children who have experienced trauma, 2) children with disruptive, aggressive behavior, and 3) children with co-occurring disorders with developmental disabilities. A breakfast was held in December with 51 community partners attending and expressing interested in the Grant. Meetings are being held with the partners involved and they are in the process of writing the grant. Kristin noted that it is inspiring to have the public and private sector and families coming together as equal partners in this effort.	
Update on 2008 Legislature	<p>Mark discussed legislative issues and distributed and reviewed the Governor's budget relating to the Division, including two capital facility projects. Capital facility projects include a new government office building to replace the current Department of Human Services (DHS) building that has been sold. The other is the State Hospital building replacement and consolidation project to replace three very old and unsafe buildings with two new buildings. Mark mentioned concerns expressed by the advocates and others that this new construction would add additional beds for children and adolescents. Mark indicated that the Division is dedicated in working through these concerns and emphasized that the new building does not increase beds for children and youth. He further reported that the building would be constructed so that beds could be converted to adult beds because there is a current need for additional adult forensic beds, as well as long-term care beds. Dallas emphasized that the State Hospital has an obligation to treat this population until other treatment options are in place. He further emphasized that the needs in the state will continue to grow whether it is for children or adults, and it is critical that this is kept in mind as the building project is discussed.</p> <p>Lou commented that unless there is another solution for treating children and youth, that the beds at the State Hospital must be available. Dr. Ashworth commented that the goal of the State Hospital is to get children and youth out of the State Hospital and into a community-based setting as quickly as possible and that placing this population at the Hospital occurs only when there is no other option.</p>	

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Update on 2008 Legislature (continued)	<p>Sherrie Wittwer, Executive Director for NAMI Utah emphasized that there are long-term needs that should be addressed in working towards building a system of care that treats children and youth at home and in community-based treatment options. She indicated that NAMI is not completely opposed to placing children and youth at the State Hospital, however, needs to understand what direction the state is taking in planning for long-term care needs for children and youth.</p> <p>Steve Jardine from the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget explained the distinction of the funding process and the need to understand that the decision today regarding a new building is about the safety for our children. He emphasized that if the building does not get approved, it is very unlikely that the Legislature will appropriate funding for community care for children and youth.</p> <p>The Board discussed at length the issues and concerns presented. Nora B commented that there appears to be two issues, one being whether the building is needed or not and the second being what is the best way to treatment children with serious emotional disturbances in the State of Utah. She indicated that based on the discussion, it is evident that the building is needed for numerous reasons and that a long-term care plan for children and youth should be further discussed at a future meeting. Lou commented that it would be a tragedy to jeopardize the building project and its current needs because of the long-term care planning issues. The Board agreed that the information presented provides assurance that the building will be constructed to meet the need for various populations.</p> <p>Kristen Reisig asked if would be helpful to the Board if they received additional information relative to children's services in order to get a fundamental knowledge that would assist them in making future decisions.</p> <p>Brent Kelsey and Thom Dunford reviewed legislation and distributed a document outlining legislation being tracked by the Department and the Division. The status of all bills can be found on line at www.le.utah.gov. Time was allowed for questions and answers on the legislation presented.</p>	<p>Nora B moved that the Board take a position in support of the proposed building project at the State Hospital and that the Board send a letter of support to the Capital Facilities and Government Operations Appropriations Subcommittee. Secondly, that the Board is provided with more information about the current system of care for children and youth and the efforts that are currently in place to support and strengthen children and youth services throughout the state.</p> <p>Further updates on the legislation reviewed will be provided at the next Board meeting.</p>
Drug Offender Reform Act (DORA) Report	<p>Brent distributed a chart showing the latest numbers with the DORA project. He reported that the program is beginning to grow and is being monitored carefully. Data was initially being collected on a quarterly basis, however, it was determined that this was not sufficient for the program and the locals are now required to submit their data monthly. Meetings have been held with the Utah Association of Counties around the importance of receiving monthly billings in order to realize how quickly the money is expended. Guidelines on who receives DORA dollars have been carefully developed. Additional funding for DORA is not in the Governor's budget for this year.</p>	FYI.
Drug Court Report	<p>Brent provided information on the building block request for drug courts and distributed a fact sheet. He reported that \$2 million in state general fund monies was received last year and that \$1 million of that was one-time money and a request is being made for that money to be made ongoing. There is also a request for an additional \$300,000 to expand drug court programs. Brent indicated that the \$1 million request for ongoing funding is the legislative priority for substance abuse this year and that if this funding is not received, services provided through the state will have to be reduced.</p>	FYI.
Women and Children's Treatment Services	<p>Brent reported on the youth substance abuse treatment initiative. He noted that this program is an attempt to take principles that have proven to be successful with youth treatment and expand these principles to other areas in the state that don't have the resources to provide the treatment. He</p>	

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Women and Children's Treatment Services (continued)	referred to the Project Empower Program in Weber County which uses a model that involves a team of clinicians that meet with the family from the beginning to engage the family in their child's treatment. The intent is to expand the program to four additional areas in the state that will include two urban and two rural areas. The funding would be distributed through a competitive bid process and would require the areas to demonstrate their ability to implement this new way of serving adolescents. A fact sheet providing additional information was distributed.	FYI.
Utah's National Ranking in Depression and Suicide	Joleen referred to the recent news articles on depression and suicide and expressed concerns about the high ranking reflected for Utah in the articles relative to depression and suicide. She expressed concerns about the process that was used in determining these statistics. She acknowledged the Utah Suicide Task Force which has made specific recommendations to deal with suicide and raised questions about whether or not the Board should respond to these articles. She reviewed a letter to the editor which she drafted expressing her concerns and personal opinion and asked for comments from Board members. There was discussion and suggested changes to the letter were made.	The Board discussed and agreed that it would be more appropriate if the letter were submitted on a personal basis from Joleen rather than from the Board.
Funding Formula Update	<p>Brent reported he has contacted the State Technical Assistant Project Office that is part of the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment regarding assistance with the funding formulas. He indicated that he has submitted a preliminary request asking for assistance and identifying a consultant to help evaluate the existing funding formula and develop other possible options. Brent explained that once the request is submitted, additional information and details are requested, and a consultant assigned to the request. However, he reported that he has not yet had a response but will continue to make contact.</p> <p>Nora B inquired if a technical assistance request from an outside source would be a good approach regarding the issues of developing a model plan for mental health treatment in our state for children. Ron mentioned that national consultants have been brought in and that an update could be provided to the Board relative to the strengths and weaknesses found by the consultant in this area.</p>	Further update will be provided at the next Board meeting.
Adjournment		Paula moved that the meeting be adjourned. Motion seconded by Joleen and approved unanimously.